

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05732 171528Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02
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R 171050Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4031
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5732

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, US
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD: POLITICAL
MATTERS

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT DAOUD THE MORNING OF AUGUST 17. THE
CONVERSATION WAS IN EVERY RESPECT CORDIAL. IT LASTED ONE HOUR.
PRESIDENT DAOUD APPEARED TO HAVE FULLY RECOVERED FROM SOME OF
THE MINOR HEALTH PROBLEMS HE HAD SUFFERED EARLIER THIS SUMMER,
SUCH AS DENTAL SURGERY.

2. I REFERRED TO OUR PLEASURE IN HAVING AMBASSADOR KARIM IN
WASHINGTON AND HOW MUCH WE LOOKED FORWARD TO WELCOMING FOREIGN
MINISTER ABDULLAH TO NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA IN THE COMING
WEEKS. DAOUD ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS THANKS TO PRESIDENT CARTER
FOR THE WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED AMBASSADOR KARIM. HE ALSO ASKED
ME TO TRANSMIT HIS PERSONALBEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC AND NARCOTICS MATTERS WHICH
ARE THE SUBJECTS OF SEPTELS, DAOUD SAID HE IS GREATLY CONCERNED
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ABOUT THE LARGE QUANTITY OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA PUBLICATIONS
WHICH ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO AFGHANISTAN THROUGH THE MAILS
AND ILLEGALLY FROM WESTERN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. HE
RELATED THIS PROPOGANDA BARRAGE TO HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE INROADS
HE SEES THE COMMUNISTS MAKING IN COUNTRIES LIKE THAILAND AND
ETHIOPIA. HE SAID HE STILL SUBSCRIBES TO THE DOMINO THEORY.
HE SAID AFGHANISTAN IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO DEVELOPMENTS

OF THIS KIND IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF ITS LONG BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. REGARDING COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, I TOLD DAOUD IF THERE WERE ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES HE WOULD LIKE ME TO INVESTIGATE, I WOULD TRY TO DO SO. HE AGREED WITH ME THAT MOST OF IT IS SO BORING THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EFFECT, BUT SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS, PEOPLE READ IT.

5. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS COMING UP ROSES FOR THE SOVIET UNION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I MENTIONED THE RECENT ASEAN MEETING AND PLEDGES OF JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. I ALSO MENTIONED SOVIET PROBLEMS IN SOMALIA AND THE DEFEAT OF SOVIET-CONTROLLED COMMUNISTS IN INDIA AND SRI LANKA. I SAID OUR POLITICAL EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST WILL, HOPEFULLY, BRING ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THOSE AREAS WHICH WILL LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SOVIETS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY REMARKS, DAOUD COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS NO DOUBT ARE HAVING PROBLEMS.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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